

**For immediate release**

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**Lighting Retrofit Reduces Energy Costs and Improves Lighting for Artists**

Efficiency upgrades have been completed on lighting systems at the Cultural Arts Center located at 139 West Main Street. In keeping with Mayor Michael B. Coleman's Get Green Columbus initiative, the project is expected to conserve over 140,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year, which is enough electricity to power 11 homes for year.

**"The Cultural Arts Center is benefiting our community in a number of ways," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "Projects like this one demonstrate we can create jobs while conserving electricity and saving money."**

The city expects to see \$14,305 in energy savings from the improvements made to the Cultural Arts Center each year which supports goals outlined in the 10 Year Reform and Efficiency Action Plan released in 2009.

**"The new lights throughout the Center are literally making a night and day difference in our studios and galleries," said Arts Administrator Jennifer Johnson. "Our artists and students appreciate the huge improvement."**

The upgrades are among a series of projects underway as part of a \$7,403,500 federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant awarded to the City of Columbus under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Related projects include crossing signal upgrades and efficiency improvements to COSI, various fire stations and the central safety building among others.

**"Not only does the new lighting at the Cultural Arts Center save utility costs, the quality of the lighting improvements in the art studios and main gallery will greatly enhance the experience of both our students and visitors". Alan D. McKnight, Recreation and Parks Director.**

**"Energy efficient projects are a tremendous way to create job growth as well as saving energy and maintenance costs" said Michael Priestas Capital City Electric LLC. who was contracted to install the lighting.**